

BROOKLINE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

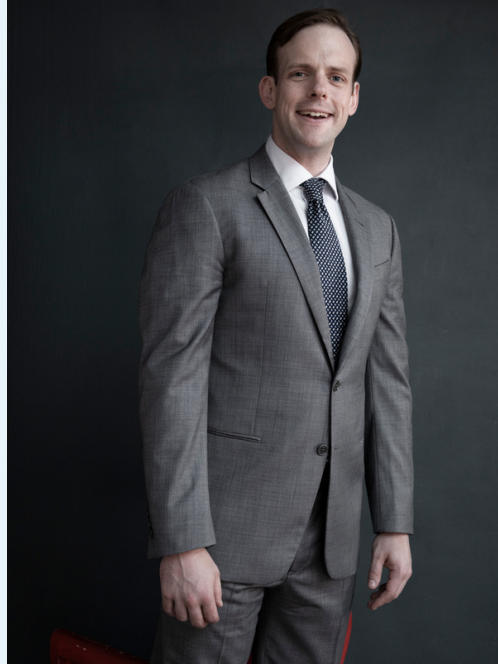
MARCH 2023

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Dear Brookline,

Hello, and happy Women's History Month! As we look forward to the imminent announcement of the Women of the Year, it's nice to look back at the list of the many other honorees in recent memory to see the incredible trailblazers whose work fundamentally shaped the community's values.

I'm thinking a lot about community values these days, because, of course, this is also budget month. Deputy Town Administrator Melissa Goff and I will be presenting the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Plan to the Select Board and Advisory Committee in separate meetings on the evening of March 7.



While we're disappointed that historic sources of federal and state aid haven't been where we want them to be, we're also striving to ensure that the upcoming fiscal year, which starts on July 1, carries a budget that reflects the community's values. Individual departmental hearings in front of the Advisory Committee and its various subcommittees have already begun.

Last year, my predecessor Mel Kleckner noted that the budget represented the beginning of what he called the "New Normal," an era in which demands for a broader social safety net would be placed on the shoulders of local government. After all, this is the aftermath of the traumatic early years of a decade marked by a catastrophic global pandemic, runaway climate change, and a long-overdue increased awareness of institutionalized violence against people of historically marginalized communities. Larger entities proved unable or unwilling to address these societal concerns, and so the expectation fell to us at Town Hall. Mel urged the community to think creatively about how to fund longer-term transformative service-oriented efforts in the face of systemic operating shortfalls.

The abdication of responsibility by federal and state-level institutions historically responsible for earlier versions of the social safety net requires local government to maximize its efficiency in evaluating how and when to step into the gap. After all, Massachusetts places a fairly hard cap on how much money we can raise from property taxes without overrides. In a community as residential as Brookline is, we have to think strategically about how to invest limited voluntary tax increases into efforts that will reduce our reliance on overrides in the future so we can be confident that any expanded safety net will not be subject to sudden termination at the ballot box.

The desire to use one-time sources of funding like ARPA for large-scale pilot programs providing services such as direct pay to the lowest-income members of our community is a noble one. But as the ignominious death of the child tax credit at the federal level demonstrated, creating a program with an end date runs the risk of cruelly revoking a benefit just when it was starting to make a real difference. If local government decides it must take up the gauntlet of comprehensive social care, it must have the confidence of the community when it comes to more mundane tasks that already fall to it, like road repair and waste management. If we can't get the basics right, we won't be trusted to deal with the big things.

Those big things include the processes by which Brookline can diversify its tax base and grow sustainably, such as using the challenge of compliance with the MBTA Communities Act to become a leader in forward-thinking inclusionary form-based zoning, or eliminating fossil fuel power entirely from new construction. It's my hope that this budget engenders a strong level of trust in local government in FY 2024, a trust that will allow for larger conversations about whether and how we can think beyond mere survival and towards a sustainable, equitable future.

Regards,
Chas

Current listening: Laura Marling – [“Gurdjieff’s Daughter”](#) (2014)

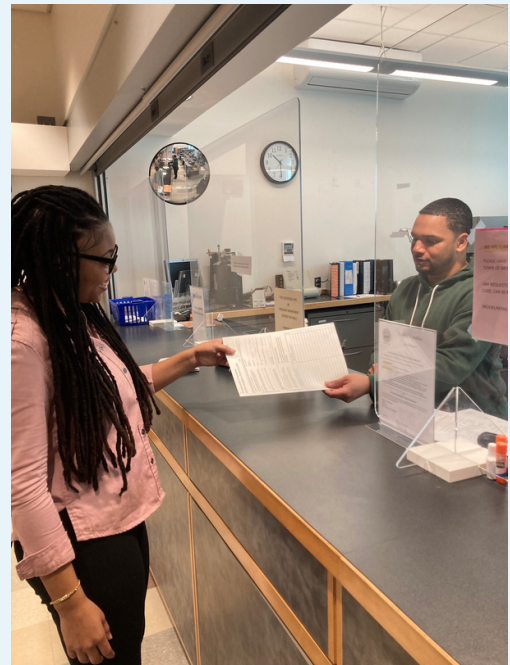
NOMINATION PAPERS FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION ARE AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE!

The May 2nd Annual Town Election will have races for many positions throughout the Town. Those who are elected on May 2nd will help to pass local laws, approve the Town's budget, improve our schools and libraries, and debate issues that are important to everyone.

If you are interested in running for office, you can take out nomination papers from the Town Clerk's office. The deadline for nomination papers to be returned is Tuesday, March 14.

Offices on the May 2nd ballot include: Select Board, Library Trustee, School Committee, Housing Commissioner, and Town Meeting. Serving in an elected position in Town is a great way to advocate for your community and help guide Brookline forward.

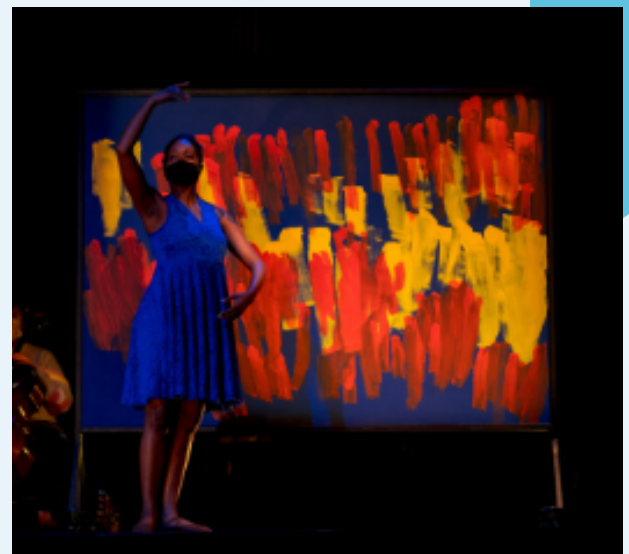
For a list of offices and candidates, or for questions about the May 2nd Annual Town Election, please go to brooklinema.gov/townclerk



Anne Hanson Author Talk

Saturday, March 25, 2023 | 2:00 PM
Brookline Village Branch | Hunneman Hall
361 Washington Street, Brookline, MA 02445

Join us at the Library for a very special visit from local author Anne Hanson! She will be discussing her book, *Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida*, much of which she wrote in the Brookline Village Library's Brookline Room. Copies of the book will be on sale starting at 1:30 PM at the entrance of Hunneman Hall and Anne will be available to sign copies after the event.



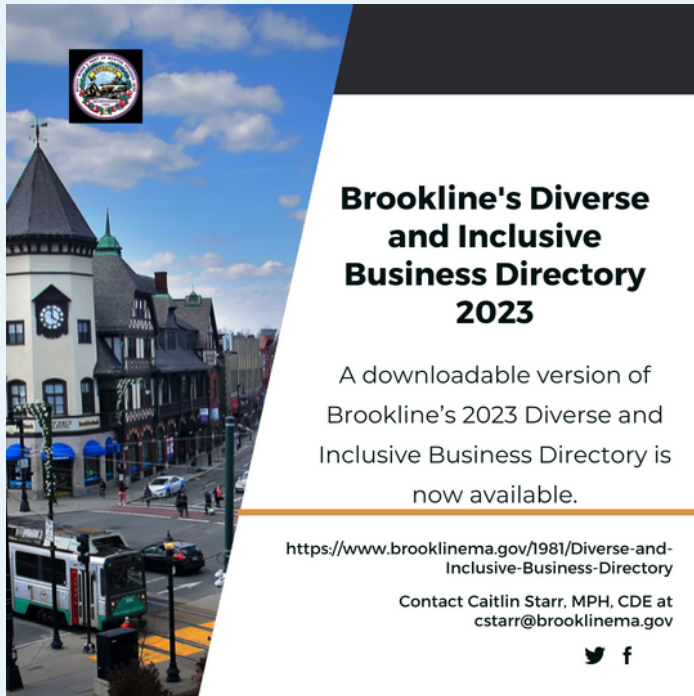
Abilities Dance Boston

Thursday, March 30, 2023 | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Brookline Village Branch | Hunneman Hall
361 Washington Street, Brookline, MA 02445

Venture inside the studio of Abilities Dance Boston, a local performing company that uses dance as a tool for intersectional disability rights. Ellice Patterson, founder and director of Abilities Dance, will talk about the process of how Abilities works in bringing together music, movement, and more in its productions.

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

USING THE DIVERSE & INCLUSIVE BUSINESS DIRECTORY



The Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Relations has released the [2023 Diverse and Inclusive Business Directory](#). While celebrating National Women's History Month. The directory highlights and celebrates Brookline's diverse, accessible, and inclusive independent business community. Through community canvassing and several online campaigns, Brookline businesses and organizations were invited and encouraged to be included in the new directory.

Ten new businesses were added to the directory this year. The directory features coffee shops, restaurants, shops, art studios, health studios, non-profits and more. The directory also houses a visual key, allowing users to determine businesses owned by Diverse Business Enterprises as well as those that are fully accessible.

Celebrate Women's History Month by using the directory to find Brookline women-owned businesses!

CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS

The Indigenous Peoples Celebration Committee would like to invite you to participate in their second Indigenous Authors Book Club! Join us on Sunday, April 2, 2023 from 4:00 - 5:30 PM for a virtual Book Club conversation. This month we will be reading and discussing *There There* by Tommy Orange. High school students are welcome! Contact cstarr@brooklinema.gov to RSVP. For more information visit

<https://www.brooklinema.gov/1555/Indigenous-People-Celebration-Committee>.

The Brookline Indigenous Peoples

Celebration Committee
is Proud to Sponsor a Quarterly

BOOK CLUB

April 2023

THIS MONTH'S PICK

There There
by Tommy Orange

April 2, 2023 • 4:00PM • Zoom
To RSVP please email cstarr@brooklinema.gov



LEAF BLOWERS ARE BACK - MARCH 15TH

Spring is upon us and with that comes spring clean-up on public and private properties. As a reminder, Brookline By-Laws require that any portable leaf blower used in Town have a manufacturer's sticker or a DPW sticker certifying a noise level of no more than 67 dBA when measured at a distance of fifty feet, utilizing American National Standard Institute methodology. Please note that gas-powered leaf blowers are banned seasonally. They are permitted March 15 – May 15 and October 1 – Dec. 31 within the following hours: Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 8 PM and Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays: 9 AM – 6 PM. Electric leaf blowers are allowed year-round during the permitted hours. For additional information, please visit

<https://www.brooklinema.gov/leafblower>.



DPWWorks

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BROOKLINE, MA

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Throughout 2022, Brookline High School collected almost 115,000 lbs of compost! Brookline's Department of Public Works (DPW) is looking for community volunteers to help continue this important work and help students and staff sort their waste during lunch. Monitor duties include: educating students & staff on proper separation methods, sorting out any contamination from compost and recycling, and gathering uneaten foods for donation to the Brookline Food Pantry.

30-minute shifts are available every weekday (Mon. through Fri.) between 11:30 AM and 1 PM. No previous experience with composting or waste sorting necessary!

To learn more and sign up, visit www.brooklinema.gov/SchoolComposting. If you have any questions, please contact the Town of Brookline's DPW at ZeroWaste@brooklinema.gov.



SWAC Members: John Dempsey and Deane Coady

RABIES CLINIC - MARCH 18TH

The Brookline Department of Public Health would like to announce that the annual Rabies Immunization Clinic will take place on Saturday, March 18th, between 9 AM and 12 PM. The clinic will be held in the Town Hall Lobby at 333 Washington Street. The fee for vaccination is only \$15. In addition to the clinic, staff will be on site to assist with dog license renewals and green dog registration.

At this year's clinic, we are pleased to also be offering microchipping. Microchipping is an effective way to connect you with your pet should they be lost or stolen. Please ask at the clinic for more information if you are interested. Keeping pets licensed and up-to-date on their rabies shots is not only the law, it is also in the best interest of your animals, family, and neighbors.

*Please note: 1 and 3-year vaccines will be available for dogs (proof of previous vaccination required for 3-year); 1-year vaccinations will be available for cats. ALL pets must be brought in on leash or in a carrier by an adult. Should you have any questions, please call the Inspector of Animals at (617) 730-2309.



HAPPY EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY!

The first Friday in March is Employee Appreciation Day. During COVID we, as a society, learned about all the services people provide to make our lives better. To our Town employees, thank you for all that you do to make Brookline a better place.



SOCIAL WORK BREAKS BARRIERS: MARCH IS NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

March is Social Work Month, and this year's theme is "Social Work Breaks Barriers." Social workers have an amazing history of fighting inequity and advocating for dignity, purpose, and security for all. The Brookline Council on Aging employs nine professional social workers including Director Ruthann Dobek and eight from the Council on Aging team. In addition, the Council on Aging has professional social workers as interns, board members, and volunteers. Each contributes to Brookline's strong sense of community, and breaks down barriers each day.

Here are some recently received special acknowledgements of our social work team:

"I wish to acknowledge a fantastic staff member, Katie McClean. I can go on and on raving about Katie. She has been sincere, kind and helpful to me as well as a good listener. Katie is extremely dependable. She is a woman of her word. When she says she'll do something or get something she'll always come through with it. Her intelligence, knowledge, and advice have always proven to be fruitful. She can always put a smile on a person's face- I know she always does that for me."

"I made a donation in recognition of the high quality, professional, sensitive and caring work that Conor Welch continues to provide for the residents of Brookline"



FEATURED COA SOCIAL WORKERS: CONOR WELCH AND KATIE MCCLEAN

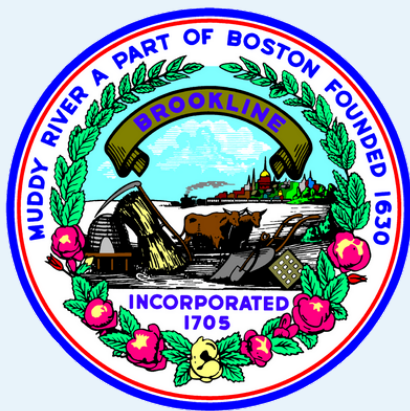
Town of Brookline Work Anniversaries - March 2023

We celebrate the work anniversaries of our employees who joined the Town of Brookline in the month of February over the years. As you can see by the department listing, they are providing a diverse array of services to the Town's employees, residents, businesses, and visitors. Thank you for your service!

Name	Department
Roberta Blumenthal	Library
Steven Curry	DPW - Parks
David McCann	Fire
Robert Collins	Police
John Tyner	DPW
Sean Williams	Police
Mark Ford	DPW - Water
Joseph Hingston	Fire
Priscilla Ayati	DPW - Engineering
Andrew Mulvey	Police Dispatch
Ryan Guilfoy	Fire
Michael Murphy	Recreation - Golf
Daniel Sloan	DPW - Water
James Lank	DPW - Water
Frank Gifford	DPW - Parks
Stephen Sullivan	Information Technology

Name	Department
Felix Pena	Library
Claudia Leon	Veterans
Jessie Crowley-Waisnor	DPW- Parks
Julie KelIndorfer	Library
John Sullivan	Fire
Sarah Kaplan	Diversity & Inclusion
Tiffany Souza	Select Board
Sylvia Yee	Police Crossing Guard
William Nelson	DPW - Water
Ann Marie Ferry	Retirement Board
Ryan McCarthy	Police Dispatch
Rebecca Hopmayer	Police Dispatch
Roland Lankah	Health
Nicholas Kenis	Recreation - Golf
Paul Campbell	Buildings
Elizabeth Bennett	Health
Kristine Farley	Council on Aging

Name	Department
Elizabeth Teixeira	Recreation - Administration
David Taylor	Police Dispatch
Zoe Sweeney	Police Dispatch
Joseph Callanan	Town Counsel
Wendy Tavico	Treasurer
Frank Cataldo	DPW - Water



*Thank
you!*